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Office of Proceedings

MAR 23 2004

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Sarah.Bailiff@BNSF.com**VIA UPS OVERNIGHT MAIL** Part of
Public Record

March 22, 2004

Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001**Re: Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 400X); The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company Abandonment between Franklin and Red Cloud, in Franklin and Webster Counties, Nebraska**

Dear Secretary Williams:

Please reference Charles Montange's letter to the Board, dated March 18, 2004, regarding the above-referenced abandonment. Mr. Montange is representing the Nebraska Trails Foundation, Inc. ("NTF") in railbanking negotiations with BNSF with respect to this abandoned line.

On April 3, 2003, the Board issued a decision in the above-referenced proceeding imposing a notice of interim trail use/rail banking ("NITU") condition. The Board imposed a deadline of October 1, 2003 on the NITU. Due to ongoing negotiations with NTF, BNSF requested an extension of the NITU for an additional 180 days. On September 29, 2003, the STB extended the NITU negotiating period to March 28, 2004. To date, NTF and BNSF are still in ongoing negotiations. BNSF concurs with NTF's request for an additional 180 day extension from the March 28, 2004 deadline (until September 24, 2004).

Sincerely,

Sarah Whitley Bailiff

SWB/js

cc: Charles Montange (for Nebraska Trails Foundation, Inc.)
Ross Greathouse (for Nebraska Trails Foundation, Inc.)
Richard Batie

MAR: 22. 2004 3:13PM

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BNSF



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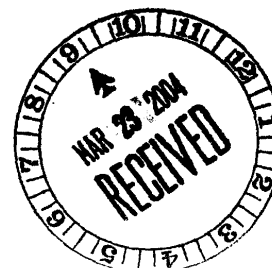
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